



Annual Report | 2025

Our mission...

We provide affordable, high-quality early childhood education and childcare services for working families in the Lowcountry.

Our purpose...

We support our community by enabling parents to fully participate in the local workforce and ensuring every child is ready to achieve success upon entering kindergarten.

Our vision...

We strive to be the standard of excellence for early childhood education, development and care in the Lowcountry.



Last year in review

Last year, The Children's Center continued to deliver on its promise: providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education and care for families across our community. Together, we created meaningful impact in the lives of children, families, and the Lowcountry as a whole. I am proud to share a few of this year's accomplishments:

- More than 150 children received nurturing care and educational programming that lays the foundation for lifelong learning and success.
- Expanded tuition assistance opened our doors even wider, ensuring that financial barriers did not stand between children and a strong educational start.
- Graduating students mastered 97 percent of kindergarten readiness skills, according to South Carolina Early Learning Standards. This achievement reflects the dedication of our teachers and the resilience of our children.
- The Children's Center emerged as a key voice in regional early education, actively participating in the Lowcountry Early Childhood Coalition and the Beaufort-Jasper Self-Sufficiency Taskforce.
- A fully resurfaced playground, made possible through generous community support, created a safer and more engaging outdoor learning space for our children.
- Special programming in music, arts, and literature in partnership with Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, the Coastal Discovery Museum, and the Sandbox provided enriching and memorable experiences beyond the classroom.
- Community partnerships flourished, with Give Back Days, the HHI Community Market, Hilton Head Realtors Association, Sunset Rotary and events with the Town of Hilton Head Island and the Island Rec Center raising vital funds and awareness for our mission.

- Hundreds of volunteer hours strengthened our work as caring individuals welcomed families, supported classrooms, and championed early childhood education.
- Above all, our dedicated staff continued to provide a safe, enriching, and loving environment where every child feels valued, supported, and inspired.

Each of these milestones reflects our community's generosity, belief in our mission, and commitment to the future of the Lowcountry's children. With this continued support, children in our community have a place to learn, grow, and thrive.

As we look ahead to the next year, we are excited to build on this momentum, opening our doors for more working families with a renewed focus on teacher recruitment. We remain committed to delivering high-quality early childhood education that builds a strong foundation for our children's future and our community's. When we invest in children, we invest in the future of our entire community.

Thank you for making all this possible!



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jody L. Levitt".

Jody L. Levitt
Executive Director

Who We Serve

For 59 years, The Children's Center has remained steadfast in its mission to provide affordable and accessible early childhood education and childcare for working families in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. Today, we serve more than 100 families across the Lowcountry and are the only organization in our area that offers a sliding-scale tuition structure based on family income and size. This commitment ensures that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity, income level, or family makeup, can access the early learning experiences essential for kindergarten readiness.

More than two-thirds of the families we serve are considered low income, meaning their household income is 150 percent or less of the federal poverty level. Our classrooms reflect the richness and diversity of our region. Approximately 36 percent of the children enrolled identify as Hispanic, 30 percent as Black, and the remaining children are Caucasian, Asian, or of mixed race and ethnicity. We currently serve 120 children, from infancy through eight years of age.

The diversity of our children and our staff creates a vibrant learning community that nurtures understanding and respect. This environment not only strengthens early learning but also lays the foundation for harmony and connection among future generations.



Community Give Back Partners

Raising over \$15,000 together

Business Partners

Belk Stores

Burnt Church Distillery

J. McLaughlin

Moor Spa

Collaborating Local Partners

Italian American Club of Hilton Head

Kiwanis Club of Hilton Head Island

Hilton Head Community Market

Hilton Head Area Association of Realtors

Island Recreation Center

VanLandingham Rotary

Community Involvement

Women's Association of Hilton Head (WAHHI)

110 Holiday Gifts for children

St. Francis Church

Holiday gifts for **110** children

Those of Prose — Hampton Hall

Books for **110** children

Volunteers in Medicine

Free Dental Screenings for **76** children

Sunset Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island

Donated shoes for **112** children

Deep Well Project:

30 weekend food bags for **50** weeks –

1,500 weekend meals. Food investment **\$57,515**

Why We Exist



Affordability

Quality early learning with fees adjusted to fit family needs.



Results

Graduates excel, mastering 90%+ of key kindergarten readiness skills.



Peace of Mind

Safe, secure and loved from morning drop-off to evening pickup.



Empowerment

When parents can work confidently, families and communities thrive.

"The Children's Center has been a bright spot for my child's education and overall development. I've never experienced a more well-rounded childcare center. If I had to choose again, The Children's Center would be at the top of my list. From the front desk to the teachers, my child looks forward to school every day!"

– TCC Parent



"The Children's Center serves the hardworking families who are the backbone of this island, and I wanted to be part of an organization that supports both their children and the people who make our community thrive."

– TCC Board Member



"I support The Children's Center because it does so much good for our community, and becoming a parent has made me even more passionate about ensuring kids have a safe and supportive place to grow."

– TCC Board Member, Donor





“As a single parent, the Children’s Center has been incredibly supportive beyond just childcare. Their understanding, flexibility, and consistent communication help me maintain a healthy work-life balance. Knowing both my girls are emotionally supported in a safe, caring environment gives me reassurance and peace of mind every day.”

– TCC Parent



“I understand how essential it is to have quality childcare—somewhere you know your child is safe, nurtured, and learning every day. That’s what inspires me to support The Children’s Center. I hope my giving helps ensure children and families have access to the kind of care that builds confidence, stability, and a strong foundation for the future.”

– TCC Donor



“The Center creates a foundation for the entire community by supporting children during their most important developmental years while allowing parents to work, provide, and contribute to the island.”

– TCC Board Member

Our Playground Transformation

Special thanks to the Wexford Community Major Impact Grant, which provided nearly half the funding, the Eleanor A. & Bernard H. Breedlove Fund at CFLC for their generous gift, the many individuals who contributed to this project, and our dedicated Board of Trustees, who committed up to \$80,000 from the Board Reserve to ensure this dream could be completed.



Fundraising Events



CELEBRATION

\$82,850

May 7, 2025

Harbour Town Clubhouse | Sea Pines



\$46,674

September 15, 2025

Sea Pines Country Club



\$16,970

August 1, 2025

Jarvis Creek Park



\$8,522

November 19, 2025

Poseidon

Partners in Educational Excellence

Grants

Beaufort County Human Services Alliance
Berkeley Hall Charitable Fund, LLC
Colleton River Charitable Fund
David M Carmines Memorial Foundation
Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort
Eleanor A & Bernard H Breedlove Foundation Endowment
First Presbyterian Church HHI
Goulder Family Foundation
Heritage Classic Foundation
Hilton Head Firefighters' Association

Hilton Head Island Alumnae Association of
Kappa Kappa Gamma
Hosts4Community
Long Cove Club Community Charitable Fund
Moss Creek Giving Fund
Quinn Malzone Family Trust
Sea Pines Resort Community Fund
Sisters of Charity of South Carolina
St Luke's Anglican Church
St. Francis Thrift Shop

The Bargain Box
The Beaufort Fund, Coastal Community Foundation
The Church Mouse
The Eberly Foundation
Ward Family Foundation
Wexford Plantation Charitable Foundation
Women In Philanthropy
Women of St. Francis
Women's Association of Hilton Head Island (WAHHI)

Corporate & Community Donors

8th Street Investments LLC
100+ Men and Women Who Care
ArborNature, LLC
BELK Stores
Bezilla Kinney Phifer Wealth
Management Group
Billy Wood Appliance
Bishop Eye Center
Bluffton Oyster Company
Branches, Inc.
Bunting Construction Company
Burnt Church Distillery
Cambridge Building, Inc.
Carey & Co, P.A.
Charbar Company LLC
Charlestowne Cabinetry
Cloud 9 Pools

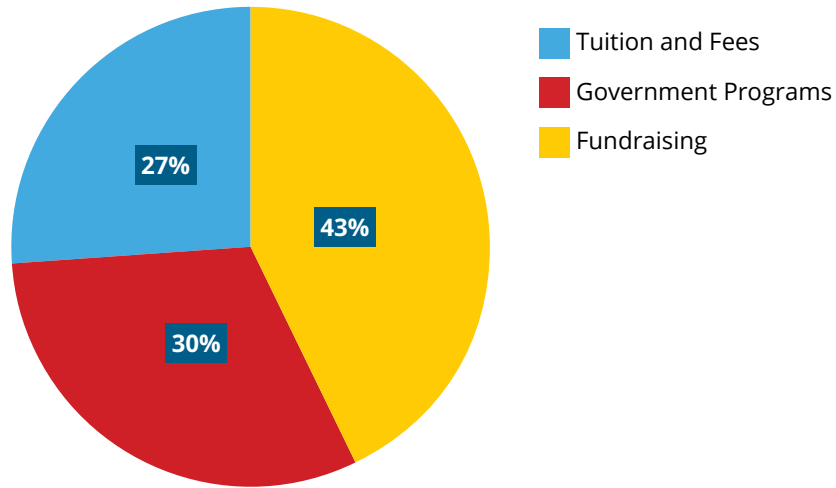
Club Car of Hilton Head
Connected HHI
Correll Insurance Group HHI
Delisheee Yo
Dunes Real Estate
Dyess Air & Plumbing
EarthWorks
Enliten Salon
Eyeland Optique
Fifth Generation - Tito's Handmade Vodka
Fraum Health
Heritage Classic Foundation
Hilton Head Area Association of Realtors
Hilton Head Island Community Church
Hilton Head Community Market
Hilton Head Security Systems, Inc.
Hosts4Community

Island Recreation Center
Italian American Club of Hilton Head
J. McLaughlin
Jolley Law Group
Junior Interact - Hilton Head Island
Middle School
Kiwanis Club of Hilton Head Island
Kolcun Tree Care
Lindsay Bunting & Charlie Wilmot; Sea
Pines Real Estate Harbour Town Cottage
Mikkelson Law Firm
Moor Spa
Nectar Farm Kitchen
Nitelites of Hilton Head & Bluffton
Nix Construction
Oceanside Electric
Off-Island Dental

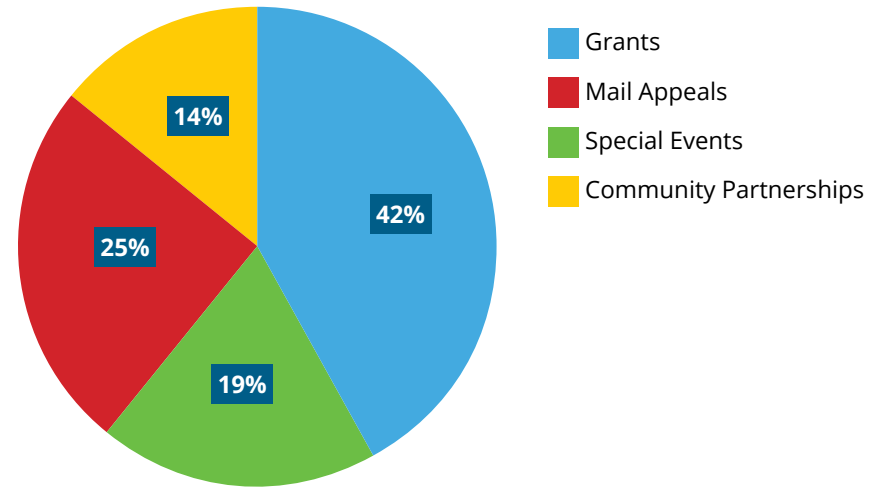
Palmetto Bluff Golf Club, LLC
Palmetto Electric Trust
PGA Tour
Pinnacle Financial Partners
Reel Job 7 LLC DBA Reel Job Spirits & Wine
Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island
SERG Restaurant Group LLC
SouthState Bank
Sunset Rotary
Triad Brand Marketing
Vac Attack Holdings LLC
Vacation Homes of Hilton Head
VanLandingham Rotary
Watterson Family Foundation
West Bay Pools
Zonta Club of Hilton Head

By The Numbers

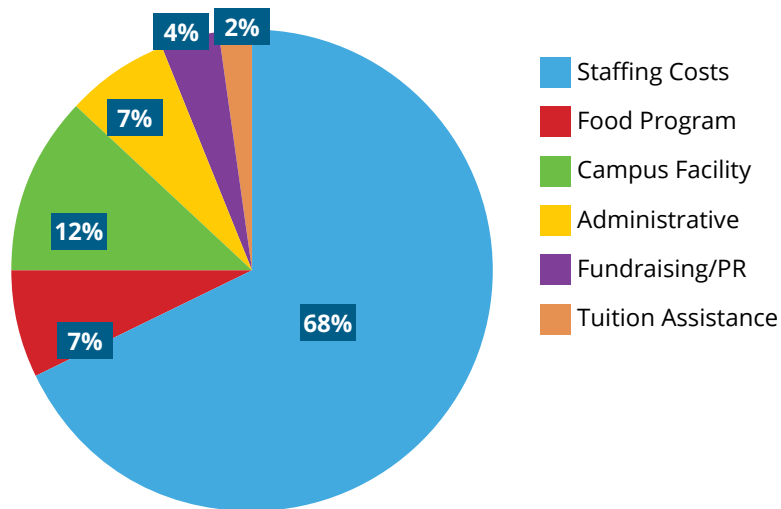
2025 Revenue Sources



2025 Fundraising Sources



2025 Expenses



The Children's Center remains debt-free and continues to maintain a capital needs fund to ensure our campus is kept in top condition for the children we serve.

2025 Board of Trustees

Joanna Hicks

BOARD CHAIR

Retired Educator

Larry Brown

TREASURER

Retired Attorney

Kimberly Lewis

VICE CHAIR

Office Leader

Celso White

SECRETARY

Retired Supply Chain Executive

Jennifer Baker

Team/People Development

Hamish Banks

Retired Marketing Executive

Crystal Bollino

Senior Accountant

Bruce Chaplin

Retired Government Executive

Sara Coffin

Retired Marketing Executive

José Fuentes

Attorney & Partner

Allan Laco

Real Estate Agent

Jordan Norris

HR Director

Barbara Pawlishyn

Retired Hospital Administrator

Robert Rotella

Retired Supply Chain Executive

Charlie Wilmot

Real Estate Agent

Louis Wright III

Data Specialist

7 Economic Benefits of Early Childhood Education

\$7 return per \$1 invested in early education



Higher lifetime income and employment rates



Increased school readiness and lower remedial costs



Enhanced workforce quality linked to early learning



Long-term earnings growth and lower social costs



Higher graduation rates from quality early education



Crime reduction leads to economic savings





Voted Lowcountry's Best in 2024 & 2025



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Get involved!

